

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2333

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA, RP

SUBJECT: GOJ-GOP TREATY OF AMITY, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION

SUMMARY: EXPIRATION DATE OF CURRENT GOJ-GOP AMITY
COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION TREATY WAS EXTENDED TO JANUARY 1976
DURING ROMULO VISIT, BUT GOJ FONOFF OFFICIAL COMMENTED
AFTERWARD THAT TWO SIDES ARE SO FAR APART AND GOP SO SLOW
IN NEGOTIATION THAT AGREEMENT UNLIKELY EVEN BY THEN. HE
ASSERTED THAT JAPANESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND GOJ VIEW
POSSIBLE LAPSE OF TREATY WITHOUT ALARM. ROMULO TOAST
AT SEPT 13 DINNER INDICATED STRONG DISSATISFACTION WITH
TERMS PRESENT TREATY. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF SAW FONOFF SECOND SOUTHWEST ASIA DIVISION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR SUZUKI SEPTEMBER 17 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED
REVISION EXISTING AMITY COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION TREATY,
WHICH WAS MAJOR TOPIC DURING PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER
ROMULO'S TALKS WITH GOJ LEADERS DURING LATTER'S
SEPT 12 TO 14 VISIT. DESPITE SEPT 14 ANNOUNCEMENT OF
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ROMULO-MIYAZAWA AGREEMENT TO EXTEND BY ONE YEAR (TO

JAN 1978) VALIDITY EXISTING TREATY, SUZUKI EXPRESSED VIEW THAT NEW OR AMENDED AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE COMPLETED BY THEN. HE GAVE TWO REASONS; SLOWNESS OF GOP IN CONDUCTING BUSINESS AND SUBSTANTIVE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN GOJ AND GOP. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT GOP POSITION, AS SET FORTH IN DRAFT TREATY PRESENTED TO GOJ DURING VISIT, WOULD BE "HARD FOR US TO SWALLOW" AND HE FORESAW "TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS."

2. SUZUKI WAS NOT MUCH MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT GOJ ATTITUDE. AS HIGHLIGHTS OF GOP POSITION (AND THUS LIKELY TROUBLE SPOTS), HE MENTIONED SPECIAL PHILIPPINE INTEREST IN ACCESS TO GOJ MARKET FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER EXPORTS COMMON TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; PROTECTION OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES; AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PHILIPPINE SHIPPING. SUZUKI ALSO MENTIONED INCREASING MILITANCY OF GENERAL PHILIPPINE POSTURE, PARTICULARLY GOP GOAL OF "EQUITY RATHER THAN EQUALITY" IN TREATY RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN, AS WELL AS GOP CHARACTERIZATION OF PHILIPPINES AS DEVELOPING COUNTRY DEALING WITH SUPER POWER. HE PROVIDED COPY OF ROMULO SPEECH AT MIYAZAWA SEPTEMBER 13 DINNER, EXCERPTS FROM WHICH FOLLOW: "THIS (EXISTING) TREATY DEMONSTRATES THE DISADVANTAGE AND VULNERABILITY OF ... THE PHILIPPINES... SOME OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS WORK AGAINST OUR INTEREST AND POSE UNACCEPTABLE THREAT TO THE DELICATE BALANCE ...IN MANY AREAS OF OUR ECONOMY. MY COUNTRY HAD TO... RISK... THIS TREATY IN ORDER TO GET TO ITS FEET. BUT ..WE ARE ENTERING INTO A NEW ERA..."

3. SUZUKI TOOK LINE THAT JAPANESE INVESTORS AND TRADERS GOT ALONG WELL WITHOUT TREATY UNTIL 1974 AND COULD DO SO AGAIN. HE INDICATED GOJ SHARES THIS FEELING.

4. NEGOTIATION OF TREATY IS TO BE CARRIED OUT AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN MANILA. SUZUKI NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH PRELIMINARY TALKS ALREADY HAD BEEN HELD THERE, JAPANESE AMB IN MANILA OBTAINED PHILIPPINE DRAFT TEXT ONLY ON SEPTEMBER 11, AFTER BEING TOLD BY GOP THAT DRAFT WAS TO BE PRESENTED TO GOJ DURING ROMULO VISIT.

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5. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER GOJ IS AS RELAXED ABOUT SUCCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS AS SUZUKI INDICATED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ANNOYANCE HE SHOWED DURING HIS PRESENTATION SEEMED PERFECTLY GENUINE.
HODGSON

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